

COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
Mack Ridge Working Group Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2002

Attendees:

Robert Anthony	Karen Enenkel	Pat Kennedy	Tom Nix
Gene Arnesen	Dawn Folks	Mel Lloyd	Clark Rieves
Nadja Brozina	Kevin Foote	Neal McKinstry	Lovell Sasser

Greetings and Introductions

The group reviewed minutes from the September 16 meeting, and Kevin Foote called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Kevin asked for corrections to the minutes: the eastern end of the proposed "A" trail is to be kept open, with Mary's Loop not intended to be the main access to the proposed "A" and "E" trails. In this same area on the map (see attached), the group also agreed to close and rehabilitate the section of road between Moore Fun and the proposed "A" trail. Dawn Folks requested a change to the September 16 minutes as well. Horseback riders will not be excluded from the Moore Fun and Mack Ridge Trails.

Working Group Discussions

Kevin invited the group members to bring forward discussions items, and Nadja Brozina asked for clarification regarding the "H" trail and stipulating specific directions for specific user groups (clockwise versus counterclockwise). Kevin stated that, while taking a specific direction will be encouraged, no user group would be required to travel in a particular direction. Rustlers Loop already utilizes this same system, although that trail incorporates interpretive and educational signage designed for one-way travel only.

Lovell Sasser inquired whether the previously discussed gate had been repaired to allow for opening while remaining mounted on your horse. Kevin replied that several individuals had recently dug mud and debris away from the gate, left there by the past month's flash floods, but the gate was not yet reconfigured for horseback riders. Kevin suggested that Lovell contact Troy Schnurr, the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA) Recreation Ranger, to encourage his staff to get the gate fixed.

Pat Kennedy asked for clarification on the trail marked "G" on a previous version of the trail map. The map appears to show the trail as being closed, but it is not. All in the group agreed that it should be kept open as a single-track trail, with any remnants of the road rehabilitated.

Kevin was hoping that Ken Curry, a representative of the motorized community, would be present at tonight's meeting. Given Ken's absence, Kevin intends to call Ken, with the group's approval, proposing an alternate overlook access for the motorized community. A larger overlook, which in Kevin's opinion would better accommodate motorized traffic, could be located at the point where the existing dead-end trail off Lions Loop and the new proposed "J" trail (see below) join. The rockier, smaller overlook previously proposed by Ken could then be closed to motorized travel, with the exception of administrative and permittee access.

The group also agreed to delete the road connecting the proposed "F" trail to the Mack Ridge Trailhead. This road was reflected on Kevin's version of the map but had already been removed from the map handed out tonight.

Kevin proposed another trail, earmarked tonight as the "J" trail, be established as a multi-use single track. This trail will be located within the cusp of Lions Loop. The group also agreed to install a gate off this lower portion of Lions Loop, closing the remaining access point to a side trail.

Kevin added that parking remains an issue. While the parking lot was practically empty one day last week, several vehicles, belonging to both mountain bike riders and horseback riders, were parked along the shoulder of the road, rather than in the parking lot. Discussion ensued on the best ways to enforce rules and etiquette among the user groups. Kevin surmised that parking problems would most likely become part of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) management issues. Perhaps with a more formal trailhead that includes established facilities, the Mack Ridge parking issues would resolve themselves.

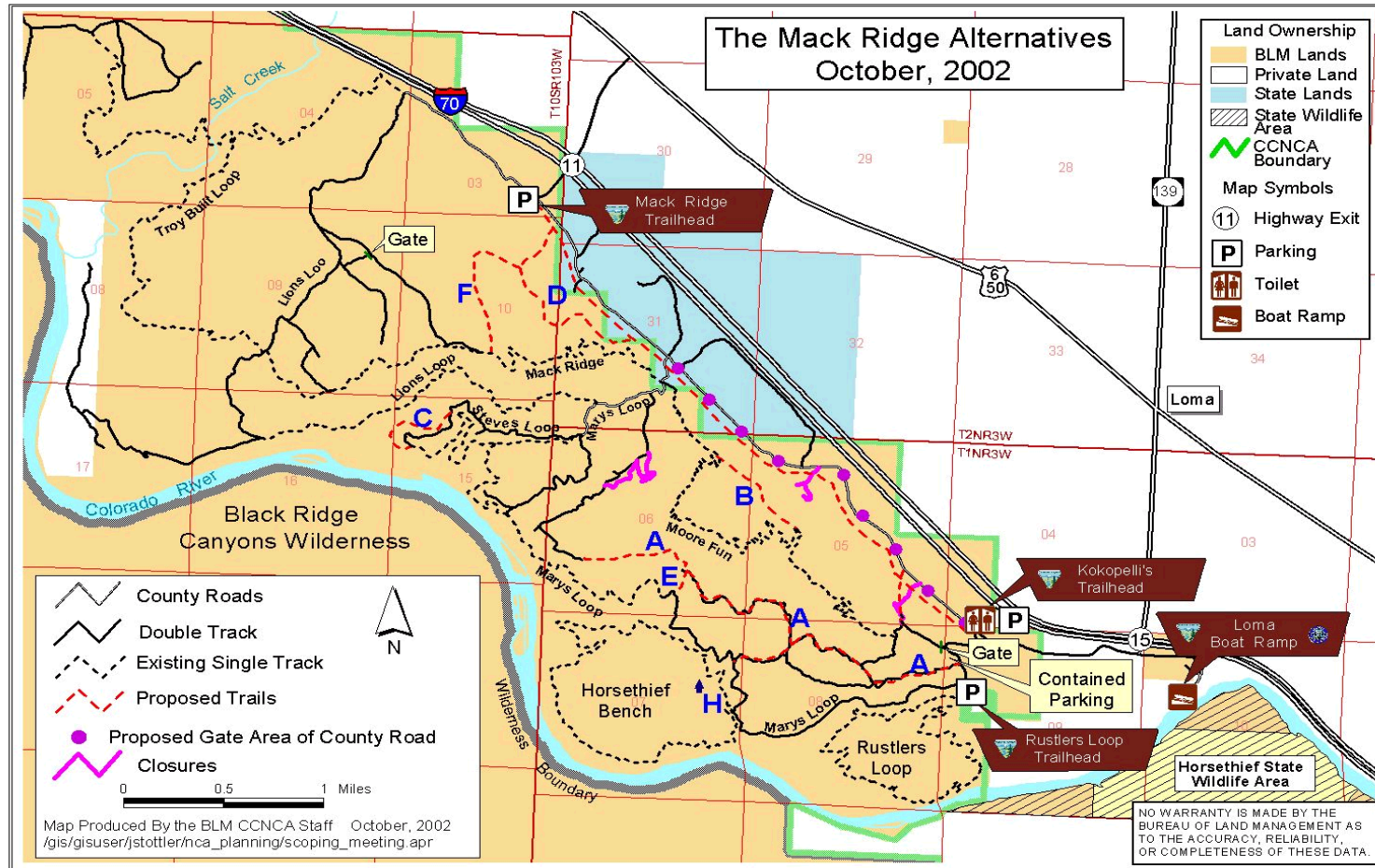
Neal McKinstry wants to ensure that a good horse-access gate is installed at the intersection of the proposed alternate trail and Mary's Loop (eastern end).

Dawn shared information regarding successful methods used by recreation planners in California on some of its popular multiple-use trail systems. Rather than signs banning specific users, instead symbols representing user groups encouraged to travel on the trails are shown. In areas of potential safety hazards, signs suggesting "first gear," or "walk only," are used to slow traffic. Extensive discussions addressed peer pressure, along with other methods, as enforcement techniques.

Kevin reported that he has been in contact with a representative from Jefferson County Open Space on how that Front Range organization has dealt with designing several multiple-use trail systems experiencing high-volume traffic. Kevin plans to have a video, along with a guidebook, available for the group's review.

A facilitator is joining the group at its next meeting, scheduled for 5:00 p.m., at the BLM office, on October 28, 2002. Kevin adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Mack Ridge Alternatives



Note to Map User: No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregation with other data.